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# Convocation for New Students (2003 Program)

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Illinois Wesleyan University

# CONVOCAATION FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



Shirk Center  
Performance Arena  
August 19, 2003  
4:30 p.m.

# PROGRAM

Prelude .....Stephanie Swearinger '03

\*Processional.....Miss Swearinger

\*Invocation.....Dennis Groh '61  
*University Chaplain*

President's Welcome.....Janet McNew  
*Acting President*

Greetings from the Students.....J.R. Glenn '05  
*President, Student Senate*

## Performance

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra ..... *William Walton*  
Movement I ..... *(1902-1983)*

Katie Magill '07, viola  
Eva Ferguson, piano

Introduction of the Speaker.....James D. Matthews  
*Dean of Students and  
Associate Professor of French*

Address.....Sandra Steingraber '81  
"Scientists Wear White, and Poets Wear Black: My Life as a Biologist - Author"

## \*Alma Wesleyana

NATIONAL HYMN  
*George William Warren*  
*(1828-1902)*

From hearts aflame, our love we pledge to thee,  
Where'er we wander, over land or sea;  
Through time unending, loyal we will be—  
True to our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.  
When college days are fully past and gone,  
While life endures, from twilight gleam til dawn,  
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on—  
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

—*Professor W. E. Schultx (1935)*

\*Benediction.....Chaplain Groh

Postlude.....Miss Swearinger

\* *Audience will please stand*



## SANDRA STEINGRABER '81, H'01

Author of *Living Downstream* and *Having Faith*

Ecologist, author, and cancer survivor, Sandra Steingraber, a 1981 Illinois Wesleyan graduate, is an internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health. She received her doctorate in biology from the University of Michigan and master's degree in English from Illinois State University.

She is the author of *Post-Diagnosis*, a volume of poetry, and co-author of a book on ecology and human rights in Africa, *The Spoils of Famine*. She has taught biology at Columbia College, Chicago, held visiting fellowships at the University of Illinois, Radcliffe/Harvard, and Northeastern University, and served on President Clinton's National Action Plan on Breast Cancer.

Steingraber's highly acclaimed book, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment* presents cancer as a human rights issue. It was the first to bring together data on toxic releases with newly released data from U.S. cancer registries. *Living Downstream* won praise from international media, including *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Lancet*, and *The London Times*. In 1997, Steingraber was named a *Ms. Magazine* Woman of the Year. In 1998, she received from the Jenifer Altman foundation the first annual Altman Award for "the inspiring and poetic use of science to elucidate the causes of cancer," and from the American Medical Writers Association, the Will Solimine Award for "excellence in medical communication." In 1999, the Sierra Club heralded Steingraber as "the new Rachel Carson." And in 2001, Carson's own alma mater, Chatham College, selected Steingraber to receive its biennial Rachel Carson Leadership Award.

Continuing the investigation begun in *Living Downstream*, Steingraber's latest work, *Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*, explores the intimate ecology of motherhood. Both a memoir of her own pregnancy and an investigation of fetal toxicology, *Having Faith* reveals the alarming extent to which environmental hazards now threaten each crucial stage of infant development. In the eyes of an ecologist, the mother's body is the first environment for human life. *The Library Journal* selected *Having Faith* as a best book of 2001. In 2002, it was featured on "Kids and Chemicals," a PBS documentary by Bill Moyers.

An enthusiastic and sought-after public speaker, Steingraber has keynoted conferences on human health and the environment throughout the United States and Canada and has been invited to lecture at many universities, medical schools, and teaching hospitals—including Harvard, Yale, Cornell, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. She is recognized for her ability to serve as a two-way translator between scientists and activists. In 1999, as part of international treaty negotiations, she briefed U.N. delegates in Geneva, Switzerland on dioxin contamination of breast milk. Interviews with Steingraber have appeared in *The Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, on *National Public Radio*, *The Today Show*, and *Now* with Bill Moyers.

Formerly on faculty at Cornell University, Sandra Steingraber is currently a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. She is married to sculptor Jeff de Castro. They are proud parents of five-year-old Faith and two-year-old Elijah.

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